

REFERENCE TITLE: ombudsman-citizens aide; public access laws

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2006

SB 1407

Introduced by
Senators Burns, Bee, Martin: Blendu, Gould, Harper, Huppenthal, Johnson,
Tibshraeny, Verschoor

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 5, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 41-1376.01; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; RELATING TO THE OMBUDSMAN-CITIZENS AIDE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Title 41, chapter 8, article 5, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 41-1376.01, to read:

4 41-1376.01. Additional powers and duties: definition

5 A. IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-1376,
6 THE OMBUDSMAN-CITIZENS AIDE SHALL APPOINT AN ASSISTANT, WHO SHALL BE AN
7 ATTORNEY, TO HELP THE OMBUDSMAN-CITIZENS AIDE INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS RELATING
8 TO PUBLIC ACCESS LAWS INVOLVING AN AGENCY. THE ASSISTANT SHALL TRAIN PUBLIC
9 OFFICIALS AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE
10 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC AGENCIES UNDER THE PUBLIC ACCESS LAWS. THE
11 ASSISTANT SHALL PREPARE INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS
12 IN COOPERATION WITH THE OMBUDSMAN-CITIZENS AIDE AND SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO
13 ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS THE PUBLIC ACCESS LAWS AND EDUCATIONAL
14 MATERIALS CONCERNING THE PUBLIC ACCESS LAWS.

15 B. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OMBUDSMAN-CITIZENS AIDE SHALL INCLUDE THE
16 FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC ACCESS:

17 1. THE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES THAT ARE RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC, THE
18 MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

19 2. THE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES THAT ARE RECEIVED ABOUT STATE AGENCIES,
20 COUNTY AGENCIES, CITY OR TOWN AGENCIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OTHER LOCAL
21 JURISDICTIONS.

22 3. THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS THAT ARE RECEIVED CONCERNING PUBLIC RECORDS
23 AND PUBLIC MEETINGS.

24 4. THE NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS THAT ARE CONDUCTED AND THE RESULTS OF
25 THE INVESTIGATIONS.

26 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "AGENCY" HAS THE SAME MEANING
27 PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-1371 BUT INCLUDES ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THIS
28 STATE.

29 Sec. 2. Appropriation: purpose: exemption

30 A. The sum of \$185,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
31 fiscal year 2006-2007 to the office of the ombudsman-citizens aide for the
32 purposes prescribed by this act.

33 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
34 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to
35 lapsing of appropriations.

36 Sec. 3. Effective date

37 This act is effective from and after December 31, 2006.